

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 MCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /088 W
-----109030 010404Z /14

R 300841Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5788
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5733

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, ET, IT
SUBJ: ITALIAN AMBASSADOR HAS BAD EXPERIENCE

1. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR GUIDI TOLD ME FOLLOWING STORY EVENING
SEPT 29:

A. AT APPROX 1850 EVENING SEPT 28, GUIDI, NOT FEELING
WELL, WAS LYING DOWN IN HIS BEDROOM. ROMM WAS INVADED BY
THREE ARMED AND UNIFORMED (MILITARY) MEN HERDING THREE
ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEES AHEAD OF THEM. MEN CLAIMED "TO BE FROM
DIRG." AMONG THEM THEY SPOKE ENGLISH, ITALIAN AND TIGRINYA.
ONE OF THEM PRESSED AUTOMATIC WEAPON AGAINST GUIDI'S HEAD.
TRIO THREATENED TO KILL HIM, CALLED HIM LEADER OF "ANARCHIST"
GROUP, AND DEMANDED WEAPONS GUIDI WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE IN
RESIDENCE.

B. GUIDI INSISTED THERE WERE NO WEAPONS AND TRIO
MADE CURSORY SEARCH OF CLOSETS THEN MADE GUIDI PROCEED
BAREFOOT TO CHANCERY SHORT DISTANCE AWAY WHERE THEY
AGAIN TOLD HIM THEY WANTED WEAPONS AFTER WHICH THEY
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WOULD KILL HIM. THERE GUIDI WAS PLACED IN ROOM AND
AFTER SHORT TIME GROUP LEFT.

C. WHOLE EPISODE TOOK ABOUT 40 MINUTES. IN ALL
THERE WERE TEN INTRUDERS IN WHAT APPARENTLY WAS STOLEN
EPMG LAND ROVER. POLICE WERE NOTIFIED SHORTLY AFTER
1900 BUT DID NOT SHOW UP AT CHANCERY UNTIL AFTER IN-

TRUDERS WERE GONE. THEY THEN UTILIZED MINE DETECTOR AND WENT THROUGH RESIDENCE WITH FINE-TOOTH COMB ALLEGEDLY IN SEARCH OF EXPLOSIVES THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PLANTED BY INTRUDERS. COSTUME JEWELRY OF MRS. GUIDI WHO NOT THERE WAS FOUND TO BE MISSING. POLICE PICKED UP ONE ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEE AS SUSPECT.

D. PMAC CHAIRMAN OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE MAJOR BERHANE BAYEH CALLED SHORTLY THEREAFTER TO EXPRESS DEEP REGRET THAT SUCH INCIDENT COULD HAVE HAPPENED ESPECIALLY AT TIME WHEN ITALIAN-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS WERE IMPROVING. ACTING FONMIN WAS DUE AT ITALIAN EMBASSY MORNING SEPT 30 TO EXPRESS FORMAL REGRET OF EPMG.

2. GUIDI, WHO FEARED WHOLE EXERCISE WAS KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT, CAN OFFER NO REASON FOR EPISODE THAT MAKES MUCH SENSE. THROUGHOUT, INTRUDERS INSISTED THEY WERE FROM DIRG, BUT MADE NO REAL EFFORT LOCATE ARMS THEY KEPT INSISTING THEY WERE LOOKING FOR. GUIDI THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE ERITREANS WITH PARTICULAR GRUDGE AGAINST ITALIANS, BUT WASN'T VERY CONVINCED. WE BOTH SPECULATED THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN ESSENTIALLY AN ATTEMPT BY SOME OPPOSITION ELEMENT TO EMBARRASS EPMG WHICH MAY BE AS CLOSE AS ANYONE WILL EVER COME TO WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT. TIENKEN

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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